

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 2nd state Senate District is ensuring **Hartford, Bloomfield and Windsor** receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2009–2010:

	Fiscal Year 09-10
Total Education Grants	\$211,788,246
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$990,756
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$8,947,987
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$2,188,734
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$35,295,330
Total State Funds to the 2nd District	\$259,211,053

Creating a Safe Learning Environment

Every child’s future depends upon their education, and nothing makes learning more difficult than an unsafe school. That’s why I fought to preserve \$1.8 million in funding this year for the S.A.F.E. (Security Assistance For Education) initiative, which will provide schools in Hartford and across the state with funding for security assessments, training and equipment.



Helping Families Keep their Homes

Families have many things to worry about in this difficult economy, but losing a home shouldn’t have to be one of them. Hartford will receive \$493,930 in housing assistance this year for families living in moderate income housing complexes. This will provide rental assistance for residents in 938 family units and 684 elderly units.



Building New Educational Opportunities

Charter schools help Connecticut students get ahead by promoting innovation in the classroom. Nowhere is that innovation more apparent than at the Jumoke Academy on Blue Hills Avenue in Hartford. Last year, I was pleased to announce the State Bond Commission’s approval of \$690,000 in funding for Jumoke. This funding allowed the institution to renovate and open a new and separate facility for its Jumoke Academy Honor’s Middle School a few blocks away from their original campus.



State Senator
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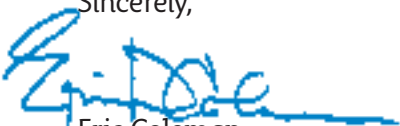
Dear Neighbor,

The global recession has hit Connecticut hard. People have lost their jobs and even their homes. At the same time, the state’s budget deficit reached a record high of \$8.5 billion.

Our challenge this legislative session was not simply to balance the budget; we were determined to help grow jobs and protect working families and middle-class folks who are struggling to survive the recession.


We did it by passing a fair budget that makes tough cuts, protects funding for education and small businesses, and avoids across-the-board tax increases. I’m also pleased that we passed bills that will help fight breast cancer and autism, protect consumers from identity theft, and preserve our environment.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Eric Coleman
State Senator

I’m proud to represent the
2nd Senate District:
**Bloomfield
Hartford
& Windsor**

Staying Informed in a “Green” Way

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**State Senator
Eric Coleman**
2nd District

Serving Bloomfield, Hartford & Windsor

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Fighting for a Fair Budget

In September, the General Assembly and Governor Rell agreed on a budget for the next two years. The compromise budget includes more than **\$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history**. We did it by cutting costs in every agency and all parts of government.

At the same time, we were able to protect middle-class families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. Democrats also made the tax code fairer by raising revenues from joint filers making more than \$1 million a year. The budget will help stabilize Connecticut's economy and help families survive this difficult time.



Protecting Families from Reckless Cuts

Despite efforts by some to make reckless cuts, I stood up for these and other important programs and services:

- ▶ **The LIFE STAR** medical helicopter has helped save lives in every town and city in Connecticut.
- ▶ **Higher education scholarships** help students and their parents afford college. A recession is the worst time to reduce scholarships and financial aid.
- ▶ **Public libraries** add so much to our towns and cities. Across-the-board cuts, as some proposed, would have hit them hard.
- ▶ **School-based health centers** help protect children from epidemics, such as the flu. Deep cuts to these centers would have undermined public health.



The Backbone of Connecticut's Economy

This past legislative session we took important steps to help protect small businesses and their workers from the recession.

A recession is the wrong time to eliminate state support for small businesses. That's why we opposed efforts to shut down business incubators, economic assistance grants and supply-chain initiatives—all of which help businesses boost productivity and grow jobs.

Additionally, we addressed one of the largest challenges facing small businesses: the cost of health care. We passed a bill that would have given businesses access to the state health insurance pool, lowering premiums and saving employees and employers money. Unfortunately, the governor vetoed this bill.



Regional Cooperation

Due to the escalating costs of energy and health insurance premiums, municipalities regularly struggle to balance their budgets without increasing property taxes. They often compete with neighboring communities to expand their tax bases through economic development efforts. Because Connecticut is a small state with so many towns, we must find ways to do more on a regional basis. That's why we passed a law allowing municipal officials to enter into agreements to promote regional economic development and share the resulting tax revenue.

Comprehensive Health Care Reform

Skyrocketing health care costs are squeezing businesses and families. President Obama has said the status quo is unaffordable—that's why he's fighting for national reform and why we're working hard on health care in Connecticut.

Thanks to the passage of Sustinet, Connecticut is well positioned to be a national leader on health care reform. This bold initiative seeks to overhaul the state's health care system by focusing on improved quality and access to services, addressing coverage for the uninsured and controlling skyrocketing costs. The legislature will receive detailed recommendations in 2011 with the goal of lowering costs and expanding access.



HELPING FAMILIES SURVIVE THE RECESSION

Helping Families on the Brink of Foreclosure

The housing market crash has had a devastating effect on our state and national economies. Connecticut has been a leader in its effort to keep people in their homes and stabilize property values for all homeowners. We built on that success this year by expanding two important mortgage assistance programs. A new law now requires banks and homeowners to work together to explore options before any foreclosure takes place. The law also improves regulation of mortgage professionals and expands the banking commissioner's enforcement and investigative authority.



Felony Charges for Mortgage Fraud

Potential homeowners trust that a mortgage lender or broker is acting in good faith. When that trust is broken, however, unscrupulous lenders could now face a felony charge of residential mortgage fraud. Effective October 1, a person who is convicted of just one count could face a \$5,000 fine and up to five years in prison. The new law should serve as a deterrent for unethical brokers and help protect new homebuyers.

Relief From Rising Property Taxes

A new law gives municipalities and local taxpayers some relief from the revaluation schedule. Local governments must conduct property revaluation every five years, but now there's an option to amend that schedule. With the cost of assessments as high as \$60 per parcel, the new law could provide considerable savings for municipal governments and for property owners who can least afford higher taxable assessments in this troubled economy.

